

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:490
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2015
Merchant Shipping Industry
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been more than 55% increase in India's merchant vessels during the last two decades, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the total merchant vessels currently serving as coastal and overseas;
- (c) the total percentage increase in Gross Register Tonnage (GRT) during the said period;
- (d) the facilities and benefits being provided to merchant shipping industry to increase their GRT; and
- (e) whether the Government has any plan to further promote the Indian merchant shipping industry in the near future and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
(SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN)

(a)to(c):In the last two decades, the Indian shipping tonnage recorded a growth rate of 60.1%. The Indian tonnage which was 65,55,419 GT as on 01.04.1995 increased to 80,12,995 GT as on 01.04.2005 and 1,05,06,388 as on 01.04.2015.

As on 30.06.2015, 861 vessels of 14,97,519 GT and 355 vessels of 88,01,648 GT are serving in coastal and overseas trade respectively.

(d)&(e):In order to make the Indian shipping industry competitive, the Government has exempted Customs and Excise Duty leviable on bunker fuels used in Indian flag vessels for transportation of EXIM and empty containers between two or more ports in India. In the Union Budget 2015-16, Government has brought in a uniform abatement of service tax for transportation of goods by rail, road and sea vessels.
